

Foreword by Michael Rebling



PIECE OF MY FART

Senryu poems by
Adjei Agyei-Baah

Piece of my Fart



Adjei Agyei-Baah

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To **Bernard Clemmens**,
*the longest fart record holder in the Guinness
Book of Records as at 2018*

A GUIDE TO THE PRONUNCIATION OF TWI

/aa/ as in arm
/æ/ as in aye
/ɔ/ as in caught
/ɔɔ/ as in call
/ee/ as in page
/ei/ as in fray
/ea/ as in pediatrics
/ɛɛ/ as in fear
/ɛ/ as in step
/ɛɛ/ as in herb
/ɛe/ as in fed
/hw/ as in wheel
/hy/ as in shed
/io/ as in kiosk
/ia/ as in caveat
/ie/ as in fierce
/oa/ as in koala
/oo/ as in plod
/oo/ as in toll
/kw/ as in quality
/ky/ as in chief
/gy/ as in gym
/nw/ as in nude
/ny/ as in nil
/tw/ as in tweed
/ua/ as in Tuareg
/ue/ as in Puerto Rico
/uo/ as in buoy

FOREWORD

Within the pages of this slim volume is an olfactory surprise for the reader. It is in no way hidden and these pungent poems slip from page to page easily. Adjei Agyei-Baah is a poet of supreme confidence no matter if he is composing poems of flowers, birds, and animals, or the melodious and odoriferous nature of humans making wind. In short, this book is a collection of poetic brain farts by someone who claims to be a master at passing gas. I have to say that while reading it I did take an occasion or two to salute his work with my own contributions using the ‘form’ in question.

Seriously now, Adjei has a wonderful way of making the ordinary become extraordinarily good poetry, and fun to read. I strongly recommend that you sit down to read this book after having eaten a big bowl of beans! After all, haiku and senryu are all about ‘linking and shifting’.

— Michael Rehling
Editor, Failed Haiku Journal
August 2018

elevator –
meeting me with
someone's fart

ahweaa
de obi tá
hyia me kwan

staff meeting
a quick dissolution
from a fart

atikyafoɔ nhyiamu
ɛ́tá de nhyiamu ba awieɛ
prɛko pɛ

noisy town walk
how comfortable
my fart comes out unheard

kurom nanteε
ahoto a menya sε
obiara nte me tá

slowing my walk
this fart which had taken
an explosive stance

ɔreboto me nanteɛ
etá a ɔremma me kwan
nka no nhyɛ

perfect trade –
your fart
and my snore

dwadie a asisie nnim
wo tá
ne me nkr̩motuo

school memories –
all the farts concealed
by shifting my chair

sukuu nkaesem bi
mframabone a mede sieee wo
m'akonnwa twetwee mu

public toilet –
masking my fart
with the closet flush

agyananbea
mede tiefi nsuo ne denden
sie me tá

waking to a boom
from the sleeping mat-
my head on sibling's butt

etuo to wo kete so-
mebo pitiri hunu se
me tiri da me nua to ho

freeing myself at last
from my fart –
elevator door opens

ne koraa
megye meho firi me tá mu –
ahweaa pono bue

amid passengers' complain
of stench from a pig farm
I let go of my fart!

akwantufoɔ rekwan
wɔ panpan a efiri mmoayɛnbea reba no
mede me tá di afra

still night –
my neighbor's fart hushes
a cat's cry

anadwo dasuom
ofipamfo tá de ka
okra ano tum

classroom window seat
sandwiched between
fart and breeze

sukuu mpoma ano tena
ετά ne mframa pa
kys me hwene fa

speechless –
the unheard fart of my guest
after dinner

metoremum –
me hohoo didi wie
gya me tá wo akyire

well site –
bringing up the water
with a fart

abura ho –
meretwe nsuo no
na tá di akyire

storytelling by the fireside
laughing behind
someone's fart

egyaho anansesεmtɔɔ
yεsere sie wɔ
obi mframa bɔne akyi

family dinner
searching each other's eyes
for the farter

abusua nhyiamu adidie
obiara hwε ne yonko aniase
pε táfoo

confessional box –
leaving behind
a piece of my fart

bɔneka adaka
megya etá kakra
wɔ m'akyi

Harmattan breeze
wondering how far
my fart had journeyed

hamatan mframa
medwene kwansin a
ede me tá atwa

returning my fart
into my stomach –
meeting the girl I love

merehyia abaayiwa a medo no
mesane dane me tá
de ma meyafunu

my fart –
even the cat
walks away

me tá –
agynamoa no mpo
firi adi hɔ

hard to complain –
the holes underneath
his panty

ne ka yε kana
ntokua a abuebue
wone pieto ase

pulpit –
the heaviness of my guilt
behind my fart

homedá
me tirim aboa bua me fɔ
wɔ me tá akyi

father's knock –
knowing where
to leave my fart

agya kotosie –
mehunu beae a
εεεε meyi mframe

cool airtight bus
then someone
let go ...

akwantu tenten
wɔ baase nwununwunu mu –
obi sɛe mframa no mpofirim

friends knocking at my door
I put on the hall fan
to spread out my fart

ahohoɔ reba
meso dan mu bonframa
de hwete me tá

summer lust –
her fart
wouldn't stop me

ehuhuroberε akonno bone –
ne tá mpo
rengyina me

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Recognition is due the editors and publishers of the following journals and book in which three of the poems in this collection first appeared: *Failed Haiku*, *Prune Juice Journal*, *AFRIKU* (Red Moon Press, 2016).



Adjei is a language lecturer, translator, editor and presently a PhD candidate at University of Waikato, New Zealand. He is the co-founder of *Africa Haiku Network*, *Poetry Foundation* and the *Mamba Journal*, Africa's first international haiku journal. Adjei is a worldwide anthologized poet and winner of several international awards. His maiden haiku collection *Afriku* published by *Red Moon Press*,

2016, was commended last year at The 1st Asian Literature Festival held in Gwangju, 2017, by Africa's first Nobel Prize Literature laureate, Professor Wole Soyinka. He is the author two other haiku/senryu books: *Afriku* (Red Moon Press, 2016), and *Ghana-21 Haiku* (Mamba Africa Press, 2018) and look forward to publish his third haiku book *Tales of the Kites* in 2019.

In the tradition of Kobayashi Issa, Masaoka Shiki and countless other celebrated senryu poets throughout the centuries, Adjei Agyei-Baah presents herein a fine collection of senryu dedicated to the humble fart – and a fine collection it is! As an editor, I wouldn't dream of *cutting one* of these poems from the book. Indeed, the very thought of *letting one fly* fills me with dread. I know Agyei-Baah to be a humble man; one who is not prone to *tooting his horn* in public, so I'll say it for him; when the history of modern senryu is written, *Piece of My Fart* is destined to be recognized as a major literary achievement in the *anal*s of our time!

—Steve Hodge
Editor of Prune Juice Journal



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